

## **Arvind Kumar speech of 9 Oct 2015**

My name is Arvind Kumar and I represent CAPEEM.

I want to elaborate on the concerns of Commissioner Flores on colonialists.

The draft praises British colonialism in India and omits the destruction of India's economy. Mercantilism, oppressive taxation and navigation laws impacted India as much as they impacted Ireland and USA which were also ruled by the British.

The factually incorrect claim about the British introducing technology into India is still in place.

In reality, technological and scientific ideas flowed both ways. British got steel technology from India which made the construction of bridges and skyscrapers possible. Steel was called wootz in India and was imported into Britain in the 1820s when the first suspension bridge using steel was built.

The idea of suspension bridges themselves came from the iron chain bridges of China.

The British got the idea of inoculation and germ theory from India, a fact documented in a paper by JZ Holwell in 1767 and presented to the College of Physicians in London.

The Hindu method to predict eclipses also fascinated the British. The field of linguistics owes its existence to the colonialists learning about Sanskrit.

We have provided primary sources but they have been completely ignored.

Such a condescending view when it comes to British rule has not been used for USA or Ireland, only for African and Asian countries. Whether intended or not, it comes across as though skin color has something to do with it.